

and training occurred at Langley, Virginia, the space capsule was built by McDonnell Douglas in St. Louis, rocket development at Huntsville, Alabama, medical examinations at the Lovelace Clinic in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio, the Altas rocket was built by General Dynamics in San Diego, and rocket launches occurred at Cape Canaveral, Florida.

Tom Wolfe described the astronauts in "The Right Stuff" as if they were single combat warriors, our best against their best and they were worshiped as heroes even before the battle for they were sure to die. With a successful splashdown off Gran Turk Island, John Glenn in *Friendship 7* had reached speeds of over 18,000 miles an hour, and in 4 hours 55 minutes and 23 seconds became the first American to orbit the Earth and rocketed the Nation back into the space race and took a vital step on man's journey to the moon. The Post Office issued the first stamp depicting a manned spacecraft. Sales of Tang, the orange flavored powdered soft drink, went through the roof when advertised as first used by Astronaut John Glenn. The number one song was "Duke of Earl" by Gene Chandler—West Side Story was playing in theaters. A television situation comedy, "I Dream of Jeannie" with Barbara Eden and Astronaut Larry Hagman was soon on the air.

John Glenn's incomparable life of service began as a Marine Corps fighter pilot flying the F4U Corsair in the South Pacific in World War II and the F9F Panther and F-86 Sabre-jet in Korea. In 1957, as part of Project Bullet, he made the first supersonic transcontinental flight from California to New York in an F8U Crusader. In 1974 he became a U.S. Senator from Ohio and served for 24 years. In 1997, John Glenn announced his retirement from the Senate stating that there was no cure for the common birthday. Nonetheless, in 1998, he returned to space aboard the Space Shuttle *Discovery* STS-95 at age 77 to study the effects of space flight on seniors. He worked to establish the John Glenn School of Public Affairs at the Ohio State University and he served as Chairman of the National Commission on Math and Science Teaching for the 21st Century. Recently, he and Astronauts Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, and Michael Collins were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal.

Project Mercury, followed by Projects Gemini and Apollo, were the stepping stones to extraordinary and monumental accomplishment. America began a new age that day 50 years ago and we were all together. John Glenn, a hero in war, a hero in peace, remains an American hero and legend in our hearts. Once upon a time he helped unify a Nation and led us into the future. Congratulations to John and Annie Glenn.

KAHOKS' 2000 WINS

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2012

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I proudly rise today to honor the achievement of the boys basketball team from my high school and hometown, my Collinsville Kahoks. On January 21st of this year, the Kahoks recorded

their 2000th victory, becoming only the second team in Illinois and the third in the country to reach this great milestone.

This achievement is the result of the combined efforts of more than one hundred years of Collinsville players, coaches, and families. These are today's Collinsville Kahoks: Jaris Wellmaker, J'Vaughn Williams, Jacob Shaffer, Falando Wilkinson, Briley Kellison, Jared Blasingame, Chris Mathes, Devonta Crochrell, Daryn Foster, Jason Kusnerick, Travis Dunnette, Tanner Houck, Caleb Johnson, Sean Davis, Kelyn Conner, and Coaches Darin Lee and Eric Anderson.

These players and coaches have proven beyond a doubt that they can uphold our tradition of success, a tradition forged by past players such as Bob Bone, who set the all-time scoring record at the University of Missouri-St. Louis and also coached the Kahoks for twenty years, and other players such as Kevin Stallings, who went on to play at Purdue and now serves as head coach at Vanderbilt University.

But the one man most responsible for our tradition of excellence was the legendary coach of the Kahoks for thirty-three years, the late Vergil Fletcher. In his tenure, Coach Fletcher amassed 747 victories, leading the team to twenty conference championships and two State titles, one of which included an undefeated season. Coach Fletcher was an excellent coach and an exemplary role model, and we can only imagine how proud he would be today. May we all find the same measure of success.

And so once more I congratulate my Collinsville Kahoks, and I extend my gratitude to all those who helped make this achievement possible. I wish them continued good fortune in their future endeavors.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF MR. JIM CAVANAUGH

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2012

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the career and achievements of Mr. Jim Cavanaugh, President of the South Central Federation of Labor (SCFL), as he retires from his esteemed position after 25 years of service.

For the past three decades, Jim Cavanaugh has guided the local progressive labor movement with an unwavering hand. Jim's tenure is underscored with victories, such as the strike for sick pay against Aramark Laundry in 1999, and his place in labor's history was solidified this month one year ago, when he worked tirelessly to help unite hundreds of thousands of Wisconsinites in solidarity against the repeal of collective bargaining rights. His ability to rise above petty disputes and remain focused on the task at hand resulted in a tremendously successful career.

As President of SCFL, an organization for labor unions in Dane, Dodge, Sauk, Columbia, Jefferson and Iowa counties that represents over 100 labor organizations and more than 45,000 workers, Jim helped bring the struggles of Midwest workers to the forefront of political discussions. Jim recognized the importance of advocating on behalf of all workers

and, in 2001, SCFL was recognized as one of the first fourteen central labor councils in the nation to fully achieve the goals of the AFL-CIO Union City program. As a member of the Union City program, SCFL advocates on behalf of both unionized and non-unionized workers to make our community one that provides a living wage and good benefits. Jim also helped expand the role of SCFL by forging new partnerships with existing labor groups like Madison Teachers Inc. (MTI) and reaching out to underserved counties.

Jim cherishes the value of education and understands the need for a highly educated workforce. To help bridge the gap between labor and education, Jim began a vital relationship with the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Student Labor Action Coalition (SLAC). For fifteen years, Jim also served on Madison College's (MATC) board in various capacities and was even nominated for the statewide Board Member of the Year award in 2008. Jim always recognized that a better educated workforce and community was directly correlated to a strong labor movement.

Furthermore, Jim worked to strengthen the local labor community by emphasizing the importance of building labor's diversity. In 1999, Jim began outreach to a plethora of faith-based communities which eventually led to the creation of the Interfaith Coalition for Worker Justice (ICWJ). And as an early and staunch supporter of the immigrant worker movement, Jim successfully organized and fought back after two dozen Latino custodians were fired over questions related to their immigration status, helping to secure a significant settlement for the workers.

From advocating for an increased minimum wage to organizing and mobilizing union voters, it is nearly impossible to mention everything Jim has accomplished in the past 25 years; it is even harder to overstate the positive impact he has had on our community. It is without a doubt that Jim's work has bettered the lives of countless workers in Wisconsin, the Midwest, and across our great nation. Today, we join together in solidarity to honor Mr. Jim Cavanaugh for his 25 years of fearless leadership of the South Central Federation of Labor. May Jim's unwavering dedication, vision, and lifelong commitment to worker's rights serve as an inspiration for all of us.

PROTECTING INVESTMENT IN OIL SHALE THE NEXT GENERATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL, ENERGY, AND RESOURCE SECURITY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 15, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration in the bill (H.R. 3408) to set clear rules for the development of United States oil shale resources, to promote shale technology research and development, and for other purposes:

Mr. STARK. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to H.R. 3408, the so-called "PIONEERS Act." The Republican majority is bringing this bill to the floor under a procedural charade that has us voting on three separate bills that will magically become a transportation bill at some

point in the future when the Speaker is able to twist enough arms to pass the other pieces.

An obvious question to ask about H.R. 3408 is: what does it have to do with transportation? Not much. Although this bill is a grab bag of goodies for the oil and gas industry, it will do virtually nothing to repair our crumbling roads and bridges.

The legislation requires drilling off the coast of Southern California and overrides current law to forbid the State of California from haying any input into where, when, and how the drilling will occur. So much for states' rights. In their drive to hand out drilling leases to oil companies, Republicans are preventing my constituents in California from having any say on an issue that could have profound consequences on our state's economy and environment.

In the unlikely event that this bill becomes law, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge would be opened to oil drilling and the Keystone XL tar sands pipeline will be approved despite the fact that the President found the pipeline is not in the national interest. This legislation also mandates oil shale production on millions of acres of taxpayer owned lands in the West without environmental review. Producing oil from oil shale is an unproven process that requires massive amounts of water and energy and produces equally massive amounts of waste. That's why the Obama Administration continues to study the process and conduct research and development on the feasibility of oil shale extraction prior to opening up federal lands. Instead of following this reasonable approach, Republicans are ignoring science and pushing ahead.

Republican leaders claim that all of this new drilling might raise some money in the future that can then pay for transportation projects. Instead of relying on fictional revenues, we could simply end the \$4 billion in yearly tax subsidies that the big oil companies enjoy. These companies raked in \$137 billion in profits last year, yet taxpayers are still forced to subsidize them. Let's end those handouts to pay for transportation projects not provide yet more giveaways to the oil industry.

I urge all my colleagues to vote against this dirty energy bill.

CONGRATULATING NORTHEAST IOWA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2012

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Northeastern Iowa Community College (NICC) in my district. NICC was recently named one of the top ten community colleges in the country by the Aspen Institute. This recognition is a high honor and speaks well to the education service that NICC provides in Northeast Iowa.

NICC's success stems from the wide array of education opportunities that are offered by the school. The school does an incredible job with identifying the career goals of each of their students. Many of their students will receive a degree then transfer to a four-year college or university, while others will enter the workforce after graduation. NICC offers degree programs in nursing and other technical

education programs. The school has also done a tremendous job of offering job-relevant degrees and certificate programs. NICC partners with local businesses to determine what jobs need to be filled. The school then offers certificate programs for the jobs that have the most demand, such as welding. This approach has been a tremendous success that has put many people back to work in Northeast Iowa.

In selecting their top ten finalists, the Aspen Institute looked for community colleges that were meeting the demands of today's workforce while educating and graduating their students in a timely fashion. NICC easily met these criteria. The Aspen Institute, a non-partisan think tank, is highly regarded as a national leader in identifying successful education models around the country and the world.

NICC has and will continue to provide valuable education opportunities for my constituents in Northeast Iowa. I'm proud to have NICC in my district and congratulate them on this important achievement.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2012

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 26, 1995, when the last attempt at a balanced budget amendment passed the House by a bipartisan vote of 300–132, the national debt was \$4,801,405,175,294.28.

Today, it is \$15,391,735,627,010.18. We've added \$10,590,330,451,715.90 dollars to our debt in 16 years. This is \$10 trillion in debt our Nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

INTRODUCTION OF THE GUNS- FREE NATIONAL PARKS ACT OF 2012

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2012

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a firearms bill that will restore a common-sense rule in our national parks. Hundreds of millions of people from across the country and abroad have visited our world-famous national parks. Before 2009, visitors could enjoy our national parks knowing that they were free of loaded guns, thanks to a common-sense policy providing that guns were not to be brought into national parks unless they were unloaded and safely stored.

In fact, this common-sense regulation was enacted by the Reagan Administration. But in 2009, Congress passed the Coburn Amendment, allowing people to carry concealed loaded weapons into national parks if it is permissible under state law—and many states allow just that. I believe that the 2009 Coburn Amendment was a huge step in the wrong direction. That is why I am introducing the Guns-Free National Parks Act of 2012—to repeal it.

I have always believed that loaded weapons have absolutely no place in our national parks, which are natural sanctuaries and some of the last sacred spaces in our country. Last month Margaret Anderson, a park ranger in Mount Rainier National Park in Washington, executed a routine traffic stop in an effort to ensure that a driver was driving safely. The mentally unstable driver then shot and killed the park ranger. This brave public servant was a wife and mother of two young children. My heart goes out to her grieving family. We have too many guns in American society, and too many needless gun-related deaths. As Americans we rightly pride ourselves on the progress we have made over the decades in science, in civil liberties, and our standard of living in general. But rolling back sensible and appropriate public-safety rules is not progress. I am proud that this bill is endorsed by several well respected national and state-level groups that have worked for years on ending gun violence: The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, Ceasefire Washington, the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence, and the Violence Policy Center.

HONORING THE MONROEVILLE JUNIOR HIGH ROBOTICS TEAM

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 2012

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to shine the spotlight on a talented and dedicated group of young people from Southwest Alabama whose hard work and ingenuity have garnered them much-deserved national recognition.

On February 7, 2012, students from Monroeville Junior High School's robotics team participated in the second annual White House Presidential Science Fair where they personally demonstrated their robotic creations for President Obama. From all reports, the President was duly impressed.

Monroeville Junior High was the only Alabama school and the only BEST school robotics team to receive an invitation to this prestigious national event.

Monroeville Junior High is one of 24 Alabama schools currently participating in the Boosting Engineering Science and Technology (BEST) program, which introduces students to engineering and technology and teaches the skills needed for today's high-tech workforce.

Monroeville Junior High has also competed in the Great Freight Robotics Challenge bringing home many awards including the 1st Place Five Star Award (overall winner). They also competed in the Jubilee BEST Robotics Competition in Mobile, winning several awards and qualifying to advance to South's BEST Regional Competition hosted by Auburn University. At that event, the team brought home the 3rd Place Engineering Notebook Award out of 50 champion teams from across the eastern half of the country.

After their visit to the White House last week, the students arrived on Capitol Hill where it was my honor to personally welcome them and talk to them about their achievements. These students have proven that age is no limitation to teamwork and success.

A special congratulations goes to each of the Monroeville Junior High robotics team